

REMARKS

Claims 14-32 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner has required election in the present application between:

Group I, claims 14, 16, 17, 20-23, 26, 27, 29 and 30, drawn to billing in class 725, subclass 1;

Group II, claims 15, 28 and 33, drawn to usage protection of distributed files classified in class 705, subclass 51;

Group III, claims 18, 19, 31 and 32, drawn to vending in class 235, subclass 381;

Group IV, claim 24, drawn to tokens and smart cards in class 726, subclass 9; and

Group V, claim 25, drawn to copy protection or prevention classified in class 380, subclass 202.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 14, 16, 17, 20-23, 26, 27, 29 and 30.

Applicants traverse this Requirement because this application as been filed in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 371 (entered the national stage from an international application). Accordingly, 37 C.F.R. § 1.475 and MPEP § 1893.03(d) require that it be shown that this application lacks "unity of invention" as set forth by MPEP §1850.

Thus, as the present Restriction Requirement improperly applies the criteria of distinctness from MPEP § 800 instead of the above-noted "unity of invention" criteria required by MPEP § 1893.03(d) and 37 C.F.R. § 1.475, withdrawal of this clearly improper Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested along with an examination of all the pending claims 14-32.

CONCLUSION

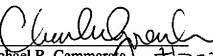
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Raymond F. Cardillo, Registration No. 40,440 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
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